

## Veltri, Victoria

---

**From:** Holly Starkman [hollybstar@snet.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 2:39 PM  
**To:** Veltri, Victoria  
**Subject:** OHA

Dear Governor Rell and Involved officials:

I am a Ph.D. licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Gullford, Connecticut. I am writing to you as I just learned from a colleague today that the Office of Healthcare Advocacy may be closing as a result of budget cuts. It had been my experience, and those of many colleagues, that this office has provided a critical service to Connecticut residents who may have otherwise not received a continuation of needed mental health services.

In fact, I have had several patients in my practice receive continued care for an eating disorder that, if not approved, may have seriously jeopardized their health and life.

As a clinician in this state I would be very concerned about our citizens not having access to the advocacy and safeguarding of medically necessary services as is provided by The Office of Healthcare Advocacy. I understand that our state is currently in a fiscal crisis however, citizen safeguarding and advocacy, in my opinion, should not be a service to close.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Holly Starkman, Ph.D.  
Gullford, CT  
(203) 458-3330